

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL COURT REPORTERS AND CAPTIONERS WEEK

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Court Reporters and Captioners Week. Court reporters and captioners are highly trained professionals who have the unique ability to convert spoken word into text that can be read, broadcasted and archived. This profession provides a vital service to our Nation. Their work results in real-time translation services for people who are deaf and hard of hearing in addition to providing near instant translations in other settings. Our Nation's captioners ensure all Americans have equal access to news and other critical information.

I would be remiss if I failed to mention my wife, Tawni, and her work as a court reporter. Tawni has been a fearless champion and advocate for real-time writers. Most notably, she developed a program to transcribe the Veterans History Project recordings. Now the Library of Congress has a written record of these stories. I want to extend my sincerest thanks to the real-time writers who have given their time to do this.

In the 117th Congress, I reintroduced the Training for Realtime Writers Act, which would reauthorize the Training for Realtime Writers Grant program and encourage careers in real-time writing and court reporting, provide scholarships for students, and modernize curriculum to adapt to our changing world.

The Training for Realtime Writers Grant Program has been successful in training the current generation of captioners and court reporters and has aided in the rapid growth of these professions. By reauthorizing the Training for Realtime Writers grants, students will have the opportunity to enter a technical, well-paid, and highly skilled career that will allow them to become court reporters and captioners immediately upon graduation.

From maintaining the integrity of our democracy to ensuring every citizen stays up to date on today's 24-hour news cycle, real-time writers are vital to Americans in all communities. Over the past decade, this program has encouraged a new generation of real-time writers to enter this important field. I want to acknowledge the court reporters and captioners in the House of Representatives, especially those who were on the House floor on January 6, 2021, when insurrectionists breached the Capitol. Their work is crucial to the sustained function of our government, and I thank them for their service and dedication to our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL WALTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Mr. WALTZ. Madam Speaker, I missed a Previous Question vote on February 8. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 35.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF MAJOR GENERAL GARY WAYNE JOHNSTON

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and service of Major General Gary Wayne Johnston who passed away on January 20, 2022. My deepest condolences are with his family, friends, and loved ones during this time of mourning.

Gary Johnston was born on October 21, 1964 in Russellville, Arkansas. He served in the U.S. Army for over 34 years. He served overseas in Germany, the first Gulf War and Afghanistan and commanded the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Additionally, he was a director of intelligence of the United States Special Operations Command and the deputy chief of staff for intelligence for Resolute Support Mission. After retiring from the Army in 2021, Gary joined Touchstone Futures as the executive Vice President for Intelligence, Security, and Risk. He served on the advisory board for Leyden Solutions.

Left to cherish his memory are his beloved wife, Brigadier General Amy Johnston; his mother, Bonnie; and children, Lauren, Blake, and Parker.

The Johnston family, and all those who had the opportunity to know and serve with him, are in my thoughts and prayers.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF CURTIS HAYES MUHAMMAD

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of a remarkable individual, Curtis Hayes Muhammad.

Curtis Hayes Muhammad spent his entire life participating in various struggles for human rights and civil rights. His activism began in the fall of 1961. Only 18 years old, he was one of five young people from McComb, Mississippi, brave enough to respond to Bob

Moses's call to begin direct action and community organizing there. He was a key member of SNCC's dangerous and groundbreaking efforts all over Mississippi throughout the sixties. Jailed many times for civil rights work, Curtis kept the principles of bottom up organizing learned from Moses and Ella Baker as the guiding foundation to subsequent efforts of union and community organizing and struggles for African Liberation. These beliefs in a cooperative society and bottom up organizing led by poor and dark-skinned people have been embraced by many contemporary movements for social justice today.

Curtis's early life experiences made him responsive to these movement ideals. He grew up in a family of sharecroppers in Chisolm Mission, Mississippi who had joined with 26 other sharecropping families and purchased a plot of land which they worked together. Raised by his grandmother, a midwife, he was taught principles of black independence and strength. Learning that his father had to flee Mississippi after killing several Ku Klux Klansmen in a gun fight, Curtis was determined to find ways to fight against Mississippi segregationists. He began preaching as a child and was encouraged by his grandmother that he had an important role to play in the liberation of black people.

Curtis's post-civil rights activism included helping to organize the 1963 Chicago School Boycott when 225,000 students walked out demanding an end to racial segregation and the disparate treatment of Black students. He was an organizer for the New Politics Convention that ran Dr. Benjamin Spock and Dick Gregory in the 1968 presidential election as third-party candidates. Curtis helped establish a radical Black bookstore in Washington, D.C. and helped create an early version of a Community Supported Agriculture project, bringing produce from Black farmers in the South to northern progressive communities in D.C. and NYC. He also worked on housing issues for poor people with the Harlem Reclamation Project which urged homeless people to take over abandoned brownstones and rehabilitate them, and thus extract ownership from the City. In Jersey City, NJ, following the same model, he assisted in the handing over of more than 60 brownstones to poor folks.

Later he worked as a union organizer for Unite in Monroe, LA. He successfully organized several dozen locals, mostly of Black women garment workers, using the Ella Baker model of organizing. As a result, the organized workers sometimes made decisions independent of and criticized by national union leaders such as calling for and enacting wildcat strikes. He went on with the now federated Unite-HERE to New Orleans organizing hotel and restaurant workers there and mentoring young folks in Union Summer. He also joined local New Orleans community members in Community Labor United, which worked on improving public education in New Orleans as the laboratory for a national Quality Education as a Civil Right Campaign.

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